

DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS



After all, Father will hardly profit much

The AUCTION BLOCK

BY REX BEACH

Here we have the tale of a young woman who is thrust by her greedy and lazy family into a world of human vultures to win a fortune with her personal charms. But she surprises them all with her fine traits of character. Her struggles and constant danger are frightening, but she brings help and happiness to men and women who need it much. This is a story with strong pulse.

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Peter Knight, defeated for political office in his town, decides to venture New York in order that the family fortunes might benefit by the expected rise of his charming daughter, Lorelei.

CHAPTER II—A well-known critic interviews Lorelei Knight, now stage beauty with Bergman's Review, for a special article. Her co-hunting mother outlines Lorelei's ambitions, but Lorelei, the press agent, later adds his information.

CHAPTER III.

In his summary of Lorelei's present Mrs. Slosson had not been far wrong. Many changes had come to the Knights during the past two years—changes of habit, of thought and of outlook; the entire family had found it necessary to



"You'll Pardon Us for Whispering, Won't You?"

alter their system of living. But it was in the girl that the changes showed most. When Mrs. Knight had forecast an immediate success for her daughter she had spoken with the wisdom of a Cassandra. Moreover, she took naturally to the work, finding it more like play; and, being quite free from girlish timidity, she felt no stage fright, even upon her first appearance. Her recognition had followed quickly—it was impossible to hide such perfection of loveliness as hers—and the publicity pleased her. In due course rival managers began to make offers, which Mrs. Knight, rising nobly to the first test of her business ability, used as levers to raise her daughter's salary and to pry out of Bergman a five-year contract. The role of the Fairy Princess was a result.

Lorelei had arrived at the point where further advancement depended upon study and hard work; but, since these formed no part of the family program, she remained idle. Proficiency in stagecraft of any sort comes only at the expense of peonage, and Lorelei was being groomed solely for

contribute toward the common fund, while the mother devoted her time almost solely to managing Lorelei's affairs. Presents were showered upon the girl, and these Mrs. Knight converted into cash. Conspicuous stage characters are always welcome at the prominent cafes; hence Lorelei never had to pay for food or drink when alone, and when escorted she received a commission on the money spent. She was well paid for posing; advertisements of toilet articles, face creams, dentifrices, yielded something. In the commercial exploitation of her daughter Mrs. Knight developed something like genius. But of all the so-called "grafts" open to handsome girls in her business the quickest and best returns came from prodigal entertainers like Jarvis Hammon.

As Lorelei and her companion left their taxicabs and entered Proctor's hotel, shortly before midnight, they were met by a head waiter and shown into an ornate ivory-and-gold elevator, which lifted them noiselessly to an upper floor. They made their exit into a deep-carpeted hall, at the end of which two splendid creatures in the panoply of German field marshals stood guard over one of the smaller banquet rooms. Hammon himself greeted the girls when they had surrendered their wraps, and, after his introduction to Lorelei, engaged Lilas in earnest conversation.

Lorelei watched him curiously. She saw a powerfully built gray-haired man, whose vigor age had not impaired. In face he was perhaps fifty years old, in body he was much less. He had a bold, incisive manner that was compelling and stamped him as a big man in more ways than one. Playfully he pinched Lilas' cheek, then turned with a smile to say:

"You'll pardon us for whispering, won't you, Miss Knight? You see, Lilas has got up this little party, and I've been waiting to consult her about some of the details. Awfully good of you to come. I hope you'll find my friends agreeable and enjoy yourself."

Perhaps twenty men in evening dress and as many elaborately gowned young women were gossiping and smoking as the last corners appeared. Someone raised a vigorous complaint at the host's tardiness, but Hammon laughed a rejoinder, then gave a signal, whereupon folding doors at the end of the room were thrown back, and those nearest the banquet hall moved toward it.

Hammon was introducing two of his friends—one a languid, middle-aged man, the other a broad-featured person with a rumbling voice. The former dropped his cigarette and bowed courteously. His appearance as he faced Lorelei was prepossessing, and she breathed a thanksgiving as she took his arm.

Hammon clapped the other gentleman on the shoulder, crying: "Hammon! I saw your supper partner flirting with 'Handsome Dan' Avery. Better find her quick!" Lorelei recognized the deep-voiced man as Hammon C. Wharton, one of the dominant figures in the Steel syndicate; she knew him instantly from his newspaper pictures. The man beside her, however, was a stranger, and she raised her eyes to his with some curiosity. He was studying her with manifest admiration, despite the fact that his lean features were cast in a satiric mold.

"It is a pleasure to meet a celebrity like you, Miss Knight," he murmured. As they entered the banquet hall she gave a little cry of pleasure, for it was evident that Hammon, noted as he was for lavish expenditure, had outdone himself this time. The whole room had been transformed into a bower of roses, great, climbing bushes, heavy with blooms. The table, a horseshoe of silver and white, of glittering plate and sparkling cut glass, faced a rustic stage which occupied one end of the room; occupying the inner arc of the horseshoe was a wide but shallow stone fountain, upon the surface of which floated large-leaved Egyptian pond lilies. Fat-bellied goldfish with flaky fins, and tails like fringed wedding trains, propelled themselves indolently about.

But the surprising feature of the decorating scheme was not apparent at first glance. Through the bewildering riot of greenery had been woven an almost invisible netting, and the space behind formed a prison for birds and butterflies. Disturbed by the commotion, the feathered creatures twittered and fluttered against the netting in a panic. As for the butterflies, no artificial light could deceive them, and they clung with closed wings to leaves and branches, only now and then displaying their full glory in a sleepy protest.

"How—beautiful!" gasped Lorelei, when she had taken in the whole scene. "But—the poor little things are frightened." She looked up to find her companion staring in Hammon's direction with an expression of peculiar, derisive amusement.

Hammon was the center of an admiring group; congratulations were being hurled at him from every quarter. At his side was Lilas Lynn, very dark, very striking, very expensively gowned and elaborately bejeweled. The room was dimming with the strains of an invisible orchestra and the vocal uproar. Becoming conscious of Lorelei's gaze, her escort looked down, showing his teeth in a grin that was not of pleasure.

"You like it?" he asked.

"It's beautiful, but—the extravagance is almost criminal."

"Don't tell me how many starving newsmen or how many poor families the cost of this supper would support for a year. I hate poor people. Now for the orations and the humming-bird tongues. No doubt there's a pearl in every vinecap. Prepare to have your palate tickled with a feather when your appetite flags."

"That's what the Romans did, isn't it?"

"Are you a student as well as an artist, Miss Knight?"

"I thought you were going to be pleasant, but you're not, are you?" Lorelei was smilingly fixedly. "I'm afraid you don't intend to have a good time, Mr.—" They had found their places at the table, and Lorelei's escort was seating her. "I didn't catch your name when we were introduced."

"Nor I," said he, taking his place beside her. "It sounded like Riles Curry or some other dish, but it's really Merkle—John T. Merkle."

"Ah! You're a banker. Aren't you pretty—reckless confessing your rank, as it were?"

"I'm a bachelor; also an invalid and an insomniac. You couldn't bring me any more trouble than I have." Again he looked toward Hammon, and this time he frowned. "From indications I'll soon have company, however."

"Indeed, is there talk of a divorce there?" She inclined her head in the host's direction.

Merkle retorted acidly: "My dear child, don't try to act the ingenue. You're in the same show as Miss Lynn, and you must know what's going on. This sort of thing can't continue indefinitely, for Mrs. Hammon is very much alive, to say nothing of her daughters. Let's be natural, at least. I haven't slept lately, and I'm not patient enough to be polite."

"It's a bargain. I'll try to be as disagreeable as you are," said Lorelei; and Mr. Merkle signified his prompt acquiescence. He lit a huge monogrammed cigarette, pushed aside his hors d'oeuvres, and reluctantly turned down his array of wineglasses one by one.

"Can't eat, can't drink, can't sleep," he muttered. "Stewed prunes and rice for my portion. Waiter, bring me a bottle of vichy, and when it's gone bring me another."

The diners had arranged themselves by now; the supper had begun. A bohemian spirit prevailed; the order of the men, lashed on by laughter, coquetry and smiles, rose quickly; wine flowed, and a general intimacy began. Introductions were no longer necessary, the talk flew back and forth along the rim of the rose-strewn semicircle.

Lorelei turned from the man on her left, who had regaled her with an endless story, the point of which had sent

the teller in heeeps of laughter, and said to John Merkle:

"I'm glad I'm with you tonight. I don't like drinking men."

"Can a girl in your position afford preferences?" he inquired, tartly. "Thus far the banker had fully lived up to his social reputation."

"All women are extravagant. I have preferences, even if I can't afford them. If you were a tippler instead of a plain grouch I could tell you precisely how you'd act and what you'd talk about. I'd die if I had to teach you the tango."

Mr. Merkle granted, "So would I."

She smiled sweetly. "You see, we're both unpleasant people."

Merkle meditated in silence while

she attacked her food with a healthy, youthful appetite that awoke his envy. "I suppose you see a lot of this sort of thing?" he at length suggested.

"There's something of the kind nearly every night. This party isn't as bad as some, for the very reason that most of the men are from out of town, and it's a bit of a novelty to them. But there's a crowd of regular New Yorkers—the younger men about town—" She paused significantly. "I accepted one invitation from them. It was quite enough."

"I've traveled some," observed Merkle, "but this city is getting to be the limit."

She nodded her amber head. "There's only one Paris, after all, and that's New York."

The meal grew noisier; the orchestra interspersed sensuous melodies from the popular successes with the tantalizing routine airs that had set the city to shivering. Silent-footed attendants deposited tissue-covered packages before the guests. There was a flutter of excitement as the women began to examine their favors.

"What is it?" Merkle inquired, leaning toward Lorelei.

"The new saddlebag purse. See? It's very French. Gold fittings—and a coin purse and card case inside. See the monogram? Lilas picked these out for Mr. Hammon, and they're exquisite. We share the same dressing room, you know."

Merkle regarded her with a sudden new interest.

"Then—I dare say you're close friends?"

"We're close enough—in that room; but scarcely friends. What did you get?"

"A gold safety razor—evidently a warning not to play with edged tools. I wonder if Miss Lynn bought one for Jarvis?"

"No, why did you say that?" Lorelei asked, quickly. "and why did I ask in that peculiar tone if she and I were friends?"

The man leaned closer, saying in a voice that did not carry above the clamor:

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Pretty High Hills.

A distinguished astronomer once took the trouble to measure in several paintings the size of the moon and to deduce from it the height of the mountains shown in the same picture. He found that the average height of the hills was about forty-three miles, while one giant peak raised its head more than a hundred miles above sea level. Turner, who was one of the greatest masters of landscape composition and coloring, frequently exaggerates the height of his hills with the intention of conveying upon them a majesty which otherwise they would not possess.

Damascene Swords.

A writer in a foreign journal points out that, according to Jean Barrelet, the well-known French author living in the eighteenth century, the Damascus blades were probably based on old Indian times by a powerful kind of cold air blowing from a narrow passage between two walls specially built for the purpose.

A Surprise.

"The doctor has just told me," said the friendly neighbor, "that your husband cannot recover."

"Oh!" shrieked the troubled wife.

"Now, my dear, the question is, shall we break the news to him or let death come as a surprise to him?"—Detroit Free Press.

A Handy Signal.

Visitor—So this is the deaf and dumb ward? How do you call people to dinner? I suppose you don't ring a bell. Superintendent—No; we have a man who walks through the ward wringing his hands. —Boston Transcript.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1888.

A. W. GLEASON,

Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Classified Advertising

Advertisements will be inserted in this column not exceeding five lines, one time, 15 cents; three times, 25 cents; one week, 35 cents; each line over five, 15 cents per week additional.

All advertisements in this column must be paid in advance.

For Rent

FOR RENT—Modern flat over Koeber & Kroehne's jewelry store. Inquire Geo. J. Gleim.

FOR RENT—A good store building, size 18x48 ft., suitable for any kind of a business; located at 501 La Salle St. For further particulars, call on or address Wm. Jamison, 720 La Salle St., Ottawa, Ill.

FOR RENT—Eight room flat, all modern conveniences. Inquire Dr. Burrows.

FOR RENT—A six room house. Modern conveniences. Phone M. N. Armstrong, Moloney Bldg.

For Sale

FOR SALE OR RENT—A strictly modern eight-room house on Illinois avenue. Also three furnished rooms, well located. For further particulars call on or address Wm. Jamison, 720 La Salle street, Ottawa, Ill.

Wanted

WANTED—Three teamsters Monday morning. Apply to Fred Scherer.

WANTED—Men for general factory work, all departments. J. E. Forter Co.

WANTED—Girl for bookkeeping and office work. Apply in own handwriting. XYZ, care Free Trader Journal.

WANTED—A position as housekeeper. Town position preferred. Call at 619 West Jefferson street.

WANTED—2 or 3 furnished rooms for light house keeping by June first. Address H. M. this office.

LOST

LOST—Plain gold ring, initials "M. McN." on inside of ring. Finder please leave at this office or W. D. Duncan's drug store.

NOTICE.

Public notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the E. J. Reynolds Sand Company, an Illinois corporation, that there will be a special meeting of the stockholders of said company to vote upon the following question, viz:

"Shall the board of directors of this company be increased from three to five members?"

Said special meeting will be held at the principal place of business of said company at Ulen, Illinois, on June 4th, A. D. 1917, at the hour of 8:30 A. M. on said day and just prior to the regular annual stockholders' meeting of said company.

You are requested to be present at said special meeting.

JULIA C. LOVE,
HOWARD C. CARY,
CHARLES J. NISEN,
Directors.

Carl—I decided not to get an automobile after all. Catherine—Oh, did you? Carl—Yes; some one else held the lucky coupon.—Chaparral.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS.

Street Sweeping.

Sealed bids will be received by the undersigned until Friday, May 25, 1917, 9 o'clock a. m., for the sweeping of paved streets as per specifications on file in city office.

W. W. CURTIS,
City Clerk.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids will be received for the construction of the improvement of the Down Town Pavement, etc., of the City of Ottawa, by the Board of Local Improvements and the Council of the City of Ottawa until the 25th day of May, A. D. 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the city office in the Central Life Building, in said City of Ottawa, Illinois; at which time and

MEN TO LEARN BARBER TRADE

—Prepare for lighter work, better pay, more jobs. Few weeks' completes. Day or evening. Nearly three years saved. See how. Catalogue mailed free. MOLLER BARBER COLLEGE, 105 S. Fifth Ave., Chicago.

OLD FALSE TEETH WANTED—

Don't matter if broken. I pay one to ten dollars per set. Send by parcel post and receive check by return mail. L. Mazer, 2007 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Miscellaneous

BEST EQUIPPED FISHING CLUB in heart of Lake Region Northern Wisconsin will take few new members, business and professional men. Club Lodge open year round. Adjacent "Hampton Reservation. For particulars, address Grant, 68 West Washington St., Chicago.

PUBLIC SALE of real estate of deceased Daniel Lawless on premises Wednesday, May 16, at 2 p. m. H. M. Kelly.

VOCAL INSTRUCTION by Gladys W. Elliot of the London Royal Academy and the Vienna Conservatoire. Moderate Terms. Studio custodian Reddick's library. Telephone 645-R. 2.

SEND YOUR lace, serim and muslin curtains to be laundered early. Washed by hand, dried in the open air. All goods handled carefully. Lace curtains, full length and width 50 cents per pair; narrow and short, 40 cents per pair. Muslin and serim curtains, 35 cents per pair. Fancy and handwork, a specialty. Work guaranteed. Call 928-Y, for particulars.

FOR SECRET SERVICE WORK and collecting evidence, call phone 389-L or address Box 79, Ottawa, Ill.

PIANO AND PLAYER PIANO Tuning and repairing. All work guaranteed. August Jolly, 601 North street, Phone 894-L.

MR. E. A. KELLY, OTTAWA, ILL. 1125 Columbus St. Phone 225-Y. Silver fills 75c to \$1. Porcel. crowns, \$5. Gold crowns \$5 to \$8. Plates \$5 to \$10. All work guaranteed. First class. Office hours 8 a. m. to 7:30 p. m.

place said bids will be publicly opened.

It is estimated that there will be about the following amounts of work to be done and materials to be furnished: 48,371 sq. yds. of excavation, 2,855 lin. ft. sandstone curbing, resetting 1,739 lin. ft. sandstone curbing, constructing 60 catch basins, 6,772 cu. yds. concrete foundation, 3,224 cu. yds. of sand, 48,371 sq. yds. of brick pavement, gravel filler for 48,371 sq. yds. brick pavement and 27 tons of asphalt.

Said improvement shall be constructed and made in accordance with the ordinance providing for the same and the maps, plans, and specifications for the same on file in the office of the Public Engineer of said Board.

Proposals must be made on blanks furnished by said Board and in compliance with the instructions thereto attached, which can be had on application to the Public Engineer, and must be accompanied by cash or by a check payable to the order of the President of said Board of Local Improvements in his official capacity, certified by a responsible bank for an amount of not less than ten per cent (10%) of the aggregate of the proposal.

The contractor shall be paid, in funds, bearing the rate of five per cent (5%) per annum.

No bids will be received unless the party offering it, shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board of Local Improvements that he has the necessary facilities, ability and pecuniary resources to fulfill the conditions of the contract and execute the work, should the contract be awarded to him.

Bidders will examine the ordinances, maps, plans, and specifications and also the locality in which said work is to be done and judge for themselves all of the conditions and circumstances affecting the cost and nature of the work.

The Board of Local Improvements reserves the right to reject any and

Professional Cards

M. N. ARMSTRONG,
Attorney at law, 210-211 Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois. Telephone: Office, 375-W. Residence, 312-Y.

L. W. BREWER,
Attorney and counselor at law and solicitor in chancery. Will practice law in the several courts and in the federal courts. Special attention given to all real estate cases of La Salle and adjoining counties, including drainage questions.

B. F. LINCOLN,
Attorney at law, office, La Salle St. west of court house.

DR. W. S. BLUE,
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M'DOUGALL & CHAPMAN,
Attorneys at law, National Bank Bldg., Ottawa, Ill.

W. H. JAMIESON, S. B., M. D.,
Physician and Surgeon: 'phone office, 322-W.; residence, 'phone 643. Office in Armory block. Professional calls in city or country will receive faithful attention. Ottawa, Ill.

JAMES J. CONWAY,
Attorney and counselor at law, office, rooms 408 and 407 Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois.

WILLIAM I. HIBBS,
Attorney at law, office west of court house. 'Phone, Main 161.

LADIES, READ THIS:

Magnetic Healer treatments given by one of your own sex for those tired out nerves. Headache, Rheumatism and all nervous troubles. Prices reasonable. ELLA WESTCOTT, 828 La Salle street, after 3 o'clock 'phone, 555-K, Ottawa, Illinois.

T. W. BURROWS, M. D.,
Physician and Surgeon, office, at residence, 810 Columbus street. Office hours, 1 to 3 p. m.

DOCTOR CARTER.

Osteopathic physician, 402-34 Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Ill. 'Phone: Office, 385-R; residence, 367-K.

DR. J. J. MORIARTY,

Osteopathic Physician. Hours: 9 to 12 a. m.; 2 to 5 p. m.; 7 to 8 p. m. 'Phones, office, Main 215-R; residence, 882-K. Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois.

CHICAGO, OTTAWA & PEORIA RAILWAY

(Effective Oct. 1, 1916.)

EASTBOUND.

Eastbound cars leave Ottawa station for Marquette, Seneca, Morris, Minooka, Rockdale and Joliet.

In a. m.—5:50, 6:45, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50.

In p. m.—1:50, 2:50, 3:50, 4:50, 5:50, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00.

Cars arrive from the west at 8:45 a. m., 7:45 p. m., 9:45 p. m., 11:35 p. m., 1:00 a. m.

WESTBOUND.

Westbound cars leave Ottawa station for Champaign Park, Starved Rock, Utica, La Salle, Peru, Spring Valley, Ladd, Delue, Bureau and Princeton.

In a. m.—5:10, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30, 11:50.

In p. m.—6:15, 8:50, 10:30, 11:50, 1:15.

Cars arrive from the east at 10:50 a. m., 2:50 p. m., 12:42 a. m.

SOUTHBOUND.

Southbound cars leave Ottawa station for McKinley Park, Grand Ridge and Sreator.

In a. m.—5:50, 6:50, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50.

In p. m.—1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 8:00, 11:00.

Daily except Sunday.

*Marquette, Seneca, Morris and intermediate points only.

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